

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY SEOUL IMMEDIATE

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TAGS:

SUBJECT: STATEMENTS BY HOUSE AND SENATE ETHICS COMMITTEES

1. FOLLOWING STATEMENTS WERE ISSUED BY HOUSE AND SENATE
ETHICS COMMITTEES RESPECTIVELY IN WASHINGTON ON AUGUST 3
IN CONNECTION WITH ACCEPTANCE OF KOREAN GOVERNMENT OFFERS
TO ASSIST IN RESOLVING THE KOREAGATE INVESTIGATION.

2. HOUSE STATEMENT. BEGIN QUOTE:

STATEMENT OF JOHN J. FLYNT, JR., CHAIRMAN, COMMITTEE ON
STANDARDS OF OFFICIAL CONDUCT.

(A) AS A RESULT OF RECENT INITIATIVES BY THE SPEAKER OF
THE HOUSE, MINORITY LEADER, AND THIS COMMITTEE, THE
GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA HAS FOR THE FIRST
TIME GIVEN ASSURANCES THAT KIM DONG-JO WOULD SUPPLY NEW
AND CONCRETE FACTUAL INFORMATION REGARDING HIS FINANCIAL
TRANSACTIONS WITH MEMBERS OF CONGRESS. IT IS EXPECTED
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THAT THIS INFORMATION WILL BE SUBSTANTIAL AND WILL CON-
TRIBUTE SIGNIFICANTLY TO THE PROGRESS OF CURRENT INVES-
TIGATIONS. ACCORDINGLY, THE COMMITTEE ON STANDARDS OF
OFFICIAL CONDUCT HAS DECIDED TO ACCEPT THE OFFER OF THE
REPUBLIC OF KOREA AND WILL SUBMIT TO THE GOVERNMENT
QUESTIONS SO THAT IT MAY OBTAIN ANSWERS FROM MR. KIM

WHICH WILL THEN BE FORWARDED TO THIS COMMITTEE.

(B) I WELCOME THIS NEW PROMISE OF ASSISTANCE FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA, WHICH PROVIDES NEW EVIDENCE OF FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES.

END QUOTE.

3. SENATE STATEMENT. BEGIN QUOTE:

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

(A) THE SENATE SELECT COMMITTEE ON ETHICS AGREED TODAY TO QUESTION FORMER KOREAN AMBASSADOR TO THE UNITED STATES KIM DONG-JO IN WRITING.

(B) THE COMMITTEE'S DECISION IS BASED ON ASSURANCES BY THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA THAT IT WILL ASSIST TO INSURE THAT FULL RESPONSES ARE MADE TO THE COMMITTEE'S QUESTIONS. THE COMMITTEE CONCLUDED THAT THIS PROCEDURE, WHICH PROVIDES FOR FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS IF NECESSARY, IS THE BEST POSSIBLE ARRANGEMENT THAT CAN BE OBTAINED.

(C) THE DECISION TO ACCEPT THE KOREAN GOVERNMENT'S
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LATEST PROPOSAL FOLLOWS NEARLY SIX MONTHS OF NEGOTIATIONS THROUGH THE U.S. STATE DEPARTMENT AND BETWEEN REPRESENTATIVES OF THE KOREAN GOVERNMENT AND THE ETHICS COMMITTEE.

(D) THE PROPOSAL CALLS FOR QUESTIONS TO BE SUBMITTED TO AMBASSADOR KIM THROUGH DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS. QUESTIONS WILL BE SUBMITTED BY MID-AUGUST.

(E) "WHILE THIS PROCEDURE FALLS SHORT OF OUR EXPRESSED DESIRE TO MEET PERSONALLY WITH KIM DONG-JO, THE COMMITTEE CONCLUDED THAT IT IS BETTER TO USE THIS PROCEDURE THAN TO HAVE NO OPPORTUNITY TO QUESTION FORMER AMBASSADOR KIM," CHAIRMAN ADLAI E. STEVENSON SAID.

(F) "THE KOREAN GOVERNMENT UNDERSTANDS THE COOPERATION WHICH MUST BE FORTHCOMING," CHAIRMAN HARRISON SCHMITT SAID. "IF AMBASSADOR KIM'S RESPONSES REFLECT THAT COOPERATION, OUR INQUIRY CAN BE SATISFACTORILY CONCLUDED AS TO HIS ACTIVITIES. IT IS, OF COURSE, PREMATURE TO MAKE THAT JUDGMENT."

END QUOTE. VANCE

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